

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 29 May 2009. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1 and 10-12 have been amended and Claims 2, 3, 9, and 13-16 have been canceled. Claims 17 and 18 are newly added. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, 17, and 18 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 8, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sukeyuki reference (JP Patent #2003-162014) and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). However, the Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 4-7, 9-11, and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening Claims.

Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9 yherein. Therefore Claim 9 has effectively been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, Claim 1, and any intervening claims, which there were none. Thus, Independent Claim 1 and all Claims dependent thereon should now be allowable. Additionally, Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 13 therein. Thus, Claim 13 has effectively been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, Claim 12, and any intervening claims,

which there were none. Thus, independent Claim 12 and all Claims dependent thereon should now be allowable.

Further, the subject matter of Claims 14 and 15 have been placed in independent form as newly added Claims 17 and 18. Independent Claim 17 includes the limitations of Claims 12 and 14, and independent Claim 18 includes the limitations of Claims 12 and 15. Therefore, Claims 14 and 15 have effectively been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, Claim 12, and any intervening claims, which there were none. Thus, Claims 17 and 18 should be allowable as well.

This Amendment has been made in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this case, given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and is therefore being made without addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejections under U.S.C. § 103(a).

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

MR2847-13
Application Serial No.10/825,423
Response to Final Office Action dated 29 May 2009

The Director is hereby authorized to pay any deficiencies in fees associated with the filing of this Reply, should there be any, from Deposit Account # 18-2011.

Respectfully submitted,
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08/04/2009
Date